

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 41395
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371		
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/EP98/06141	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE September 28, 1998	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED
TITLE OF INVENTION PROCESS FOR PRODUCING FOAMED ARTICLES, ESPECIALLY FOAMED ARTICLES FOR UPHOLSTERING CAR SEATS		
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US KONSTANTINOS POULAKIS		
<p>Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>FIRST</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</li> <li>2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>SECOND</b> or <b>SUBSEQUENT</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</li> <li>3. <input type="checkbox"/> This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).</li> <li>4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.</li> <li>5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).</li> <li>b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been transmitted by the International Bureau.</li> <li>c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).</li> </ol> </li> <li>6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).</li> <li>7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <input type="checkbox"/> are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).</li> <li>b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been transmitted by the International Bureau.</li> <li>c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.</li> <li>d. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made.</li> </ol> </li> <li>8. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).</li> <li>9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).</li> <li>10. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).</li> </ol> <p><b>Items 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.</li> <li>12. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.</li> <li>13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <b>FIRST</b> preliminary amendment. <input type="checkbox"/> A <b>SECOND</b> or <b>SUBSEQUENT</b> preliminary amendment.</li> <li>14. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification.</li> <li>15. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.</li> <li>16. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information: Translation of Preliminary Examination Report</li> </ol>		

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.1)		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO PCT/EP98/06141	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 41395
17. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted:		CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY	
<b>BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)) :</b>			
Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO ..... \$1,000.00			
International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO ..... \$860.00			
International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO ..... \$710.00			
International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) ..... \$690.00			
International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) ..... \$100.00			
<b>ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =</b> <b>\$ 860.00</b>			
Surcharge of <b>\$130.00</b> for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)). <b>\$</b>			
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE
Total claims	7 - 20 =	0	X \$18.00 <b>\$</b>
Independent claims	1 - 3 =	0	X \$80.00 <b>\$</b>
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)		+ \$270.00 <b>\$</b>	
<b>TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =</b> <b>\$ 860.00</b>			
Reduction of 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. <b>\$</b>			
<b>SUBTOTAL =</b> <b>\$</b>			
Processing fee of <b>\$130.00</b> for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)). <b>\$</b>			
<b>TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =</b> <b>\$ 860.00</b>			
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). <b>\$40.00</b> per property <b>+</b> <b>\$ 40.00</b>			
<b>TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =</b> <b>\$ 900.00</b>			
		Amount to be refunded: <b>\$</b>	
		charged: <b>\$</b>	
<p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of <b>\$ 900.00</b> to cover the above fees is enclosed.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.</p> <p>c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. <u>18-2220</u>. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.</p>			
<p><b>NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.</b></p>			
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO			
Roylance, Abrams, Berdo & Goodman, L.L.P.		SIGNATURE	
1300 19th Street, N.W., Suite 600		Mark S. Bicks	
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REGISTRATION NUMBER			

41395

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of :  
KONSTANTINOS POULAKIS : PATENT  
Serial No.: NEW : Group Art Unit:  
Filed: Herewith : Examiner:  
For: PROCESS FOR PRODUCING FOAMED :  
ARTICLES, ESPECIALLY FOAMED :  
ARTICLES FOR UPHOLSTERING CAR :  
SEATS :

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Preliminary to examination and calculation of the filing fee, please amend the above-identified application, as amended in preliminary examination, as follows:

In the Claims:

Substitute the following amended claims for each pending claim with the same number:

3. A process as described in Claim 1, wherein the edge cover (5) is made up of at least two lengthwise edges of the adhesive sealing component (1), which edges, free of adhesive elements (2) between themselves, are provided with a surface area having adhesive elements (2).

4. A process as described in Claim 1, wherein the relevant layer (9) is obtained by means of a sol-gel process or is in the form of an adhesive base material.

5. A process as described in Claim 2, wherein the retaining elements (8) of the foam injection mold (4) generating magnetic fields are made up of permanent magnets, for example, ones in the form of magnetic strips (10) or bar magnets introduced into the foam injection mold (4) or into components of this mold.

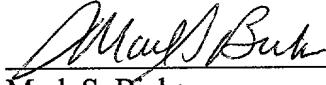
6. A process as described in Claim 1, wherein the adhesive sealing component (1) is in the form of a polyamide or of a polyolefin material or at least in part of textile materials.

7. An adhesive sealing component (1) produced by the process described in Claim 1, wherein the adhesive sealing component (1) foam injectable into a foam component is provided with an edge cover (5) which, free of adhesive elements (2), has part of a retaining mechanism (6) for separable contact with parts of a foam injection mold (4) used to produce the foam component.

**REMARKS**

The above changes eliminate multiple dependency in the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Dated: Mar. 14, 2001

## Claims

1. A process for production of a foam component, a foam upholstery component in particular, for a vehicle seat, which component is provided at the minimum with an adhesive sealing component (1) with adhesive elements (2) which, covered by a foam retaining cover (3) with ferromagnetic properties, are received in a foam injection mold (4) producing the foam component, with the cover (3) being in the form of the adhesive sealing component (1) itself, which is mounted with a variable-width edge cover (5) projecting over the area having the adhesive elements (2) and with a retaining mechanism (6) brought into in separable contact with the foam injection mold (4), characterized in that the adhesive elements (2) are mounted in one plane with the edge cover (5) of the adhesive sealing element (1) in contact with the foam injection mold (4) and that the ferromagnetic components are in the form of an integral part of the adhesive sealing element (1) or that layers (9) are applied to the front and/or rear of the adhesive sealing element (1).

2. A process as described in Claim 1, wherein at the minimum the edge cover (5) of the adhesive sealing component (1) has ferromagnetic components and is used as one component of the retaining mechanism (6) whose other component belonging to the foam injection mold (4) is in the form of retaining elements (8) mounted on this mold (4) and generating magnetic fields, ones by which the edge cover (5) is held during the foam injection process to form a foam barrier.

3. A process as described in ~~one of Claims 1 to 2~~, wherein the edge cover (5) is made up of at least two lengthwise edges of

the adhesive sealing component (1), which edges, free of adhesive elements (2) between themselves, are provided with a surface area having adhesive elements (2).

4. A process as described in ~~one of Claims 1 to 4~~, wherein the relevant layer (9) is obtained by means of a sol-gel process or is in the form of an adhesive base material.

5. A process as described in ~~one of Claims 2 to 4~~, wherein the retaining elements (8) of the foam injection mold (4) generating magnetic fields are made up of permanent magnets, for example, ones in the form of magnetic strips (10) or bar magnets introduced into the foam injection mold (4) or into components of this mold.

6. A process as described in ~~one of Claims 1 to 5~~, wherein the adhesive sealing component (1) is in the form of a polyamide or of a polyolefin material or at least in part of textile materials.

7. An adhesive sealing component (1) produced by the process described in ~~one of Claims 1 to 5~~, wherein the adhesive sealing component (1) foam injectable into a foam component is provided with an edge cover (5) which, free of adhesive elements (2), has part of a retaining mechanism (6) for separable contact with parts of a foam injection mold (4) used to produce the foam component.



INTERNATIONAL TRANSLATION CENTER, INC.

DECLARATION OF TRANSLATOR

I, Lawrence B. Hanlon, of the International Translation Center, Inc., do hereby avow and declare that I am conversant with the English and German languages and am a competent translator of German into English. I declare further that to the best of my knowledge and belief the following is a true and correct translation prepared and reviewed by me of the document in the German language attached hereto.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Lawrence B. Hanlon  
Lawrence B. Hanlon

Date: 07/15/01

Gottlieb Binder GmbH & Co., Bahnhofstr. 19, 7-088 Holzgerlingen

A process for producing foamed articles, especially foamed  
articles for upholstering car seats

The invention relates to a process for production of a foam component, a foam upholstery component for a motor vehicle seat in particular, a component provided with at least one adhesive sealing element containing adhesive elements which, covered by a foam retaining cover with ferromagnetic properties, are introduced into a foam injection mold producing the foam component, with the cover being in the form of the adhesive sealing component itself, which is mounted with a variable-width edge cover projecting over the area having the adhesive elements and with a retaining mechanism brought into in separable contact with the foam injection mold.

Foam upholstery components with injected foam adhesive sealing elements are used by preference for foam upholstery components for seat elements, seat backs, or head restraints, especially such elements for motor vehicle seats. The adhesive elements of the injected foam adhesive sealing elements are generally used in this process for fastening cover materials provided with adhesive sealing components with suitable adhesive elements on the foam upholstery component concerned.

In order to ensure functional efficiency of the adhesive sealing elements it is of essential importance to protect the adhesive elements from penetration by the foam material during the foam injection process by means of a foam retaining cover, so that cementing of the adhesive elements is prevented. This can be accomplished by employing a conventional process in such a way that the front side of the adhesive sealing element, on which the adhesive elements are exposed, is fully covered by a covering element in the form of a layer of a sealing compound, an element which may be removed after the foam injection molding process in order to expose the adhesive elements again.

In the case of an adhesive sealing component illustrated in EP 0 612 485 A1 a thermoplastic material is used which may be fused and reused after removal.

Despite use of a recyclable sealing compound, this procedure is very costly because of the additional operating steps for application of the sealing elements, removal, and the measures required for reuse.

A generic process is known from US-A-5,654,070. In the generic process for production of a foam component, the cover consists of two lengthwise ferromagnetic strips, which are cemented onto the edge of the underside of the adhesive sealing element. The edge cover strips may then be brought in contact with the magnetic mechanism of the foam component such that foam-sealing adhesive elements may be appointed in a recess of the foam injection mold. To ensure that the state-of-the-art adhesive sealing element does not separate from the foam

injection mold during the foam injection process, ferromagnetic retaining clips in addition are arranged at variable length from each other gripping the approximate center of the adhesive sealing element such that it combines its action with an additional retaining magnet of the foam injection mold arranged below the recess. Based on the high degree of cleanliness required during foam injection, the foam injection mold itself is to be cleaned after a predetermined number of foam injection processes. Cleaning of the recess within the foam injection mold, based on it being recessed from the otherwise flush surfaces, is time-consuming and consequently very costly, because the foam injection mold is not immediately available for reuse in the production process.

A comparable process is known from WO-A-86/03164, in which a magnetic strip as a ferromagnetic adhesive element is ultrasonically fused into an adhesive seal constructed of multiple layers. When this state-of-the-art adhesive sealing element is arranged in a recess within the foam injection mold, the metal strip is held by the magnetic and retaining mechanisms arranged in the center of the recess and the state-of-the-art adhesive sealing element with its edge cover is supported on each side of the mold recess in the foam injection mold on the top surface in the wall of the mold and is supported and projects over this top surface in the wall of the mold. The actual sealing elements of the adhesive sealing element, which are to be kept free of foam material to ensure later trouble-free contact with the corresponding material of the adhesive sealing element of the upholstery material or the like, again, as described in the state of the art described above, are arranged within the recess and the loop elements on the back of the adhesive sealing

element, the loop elements being arranged extending all the way through, to allow improved contact of the foam material and concomitantly improved hold of the adhesive sealing element with the foam component to be produced. The increased cleaning requirements of this solution is disadvantageous as well with respect to the recess provided in the foam injection mold.

Based on this state of the art, the invention is based on the problem of developing a process which permits relatively simpler and more cost-effective production of foam components with injection-molded adhesive elements.

It is claimed for the invention that this problem is solved by means of a process as described above characterized in that the adhesive elements are mounted in one plane with the edge cover of the adhesive sealing component in contact with the foam injection mold and that the ferromagnetic components are constructed as integrated parts of the adhesive sealing element or are applied as layers on the front and/or back of the adhesive sealing element. This permits construction of the foam injection mold without a recess, because the adhesive elements are contact-mounted in one plane of the foam injection mold with the edge cover of the adhesive sealing element. When cleaning the foam injection mold, there is no need for the costly cleaning of the mold recesses at all and the foam injection mold is promptly available for the actual production process. Since the ferromagnetic components, even in the shape of applied layers, widen the adhesive sealing element only minimally, the edge cover also structurally builds up minimally and permits direct contact with the retaining elements of the foam injection mold generating magnetic fields.

4a

Additional advantageous embodiments are the subject matter of the other dependent claims.

The invention is explained in detail in what follows with reference to the drawing, in which

Figures 1 and 2 present a diagrammatically simplified front view of the foam injection mold with adhesive sealing component to be injected into the mold.

The adhesive sealing component 1 in question as shown in the figures serves the purpose in particular of foam injection in production of upholstered parts of motor vehicle seats (not shown). The strip-type adhesive sealing component 1, but also one which may have a different two-dimensional geometry, has on one side adhesive elements 2 for joining to corresponding adhesive elements of another adhesive sealing component (not shown) to form a conventional adhesive seal. In this way cushions and cushion upholstering materials may then be separably

secured in position on the foamed motor vehicle seat by way of the respective adhesive seal.

The adhesive sealing component 1 shown in the figures is produced by a conventional process, such as one specified in DE 196 46 318.1. The adhesive elements 2, according to Figure 1 shown in the form of mushroom-like stalks the free ends of which spread out in the form of plates. The adhesive elements 2 may, however, also consist, as is illustrated in Figure 2, of conventionally produced loops serving the purpose of engagement of hook-shaped adhesive elements (not shown) of the corresponding adhesive sealing component to produce an adhesive seal.

As the figures also show, the particular adhesive sealing component 1 with its adhesive elements 2 covered by a foam restraining cover 3 is received into a foam injection mold 4 producing the foamed component (not shown), a mold of which only more or less one-half is shown in the figures as part of a molding box. It is claimed for the invention that the cover 3 is in the form of the adhesive sealing component 1 itself, which is mounted to extend, together with a variable-width edge cover 5, to form a sealing surface over the surface area having the adhesive elements 2, and is brought, together with a retaining mechanism identified as a whole as 6, into separable contact with the foam injection mold 4.

As is to be seen from the figures, the adhesive elements 2 are mounted in one plane with the edge cover 5 of the adhesive sealing component 1 in contact with the foam injection mold 4 so that the surface area with the adhesive elements 2 curves upward as viewed in the line of sight to the figures. The planes in

question relate to the frontal contact surface of adhesive sealing components 1 with their adhesive elements 2.

At the minimum the edge cover 5 of the adhesive sealing component 1, but preferably the entire width and length of the adhesive sealing component, have ferromagnetic components, and are used as one part of the retaining mechanism 6 the other part of which belonging to the foam injection mold 4 is in the form of retaining elements 8 mounted on it to generate a magnetic field, ones on which the edge cover 5 is retained during the foam injection process to form a foam barrier or sealing lip. The edge cover 5 is made up at the minimum of two lengthwise edges of the adhesive sealing component 1 which, free of the adhesive elements 2 between them are provided with a surface area having adhesive elements 2. Preferably, however, the edge cover 5, entirely rectangular in shape, includes the surface area with adhesive elements 2 in all directions.

The ferromagnetic components claimed may be applied as an integral part of the adhesive sealing component or as layers applied to the front and/or back of the component. The coating in question is preferably obtained by a sol-gel process or from an adhesive base material.

A sol-gel process suitable for production of adhesive sealing components 1 is described in PCT/EP 98/03055. The layer 9 obtained by way of the sol-gel process has a nanocompository structure, the sol-gel based on  $\text{SiO}_2$  and/or  $\text{TiO}_2$  modified  $\text{SiO}_2$

being selected. In order for the layer 9 in question to possess ferromagnetic properties, the sol-gel is mixed with ferrite or a material containing ferrite with the structure  $Fe_x O_y$ . Magnetite may also be precipitated to obtain a ferromagnetic sol-gel. The layer 9 may be applied by padding, dipping, spraying, perfusion, vacuum metallizing, lamination, or wiping and pasting on the adhesive sealing component 1.

The layer 9 in question may, however, also consist of an adhesive base material of resorcin and/or at least one of its derivatives. In particular the layer in question of an adhesive base material may be represented by a polyurethane layer containing a ferromagnetic, the polyurethane being represented, for example, by the polyurethane SU 9182 made by the Stahl company. A suitable adhesive base is described in PCT/EP 98/02886.

The retaining elements 8 of the foam injection mold 4 generating the magnetic fields are in the form of permanent magnets, for example ones in the form of magnetic strips 10 or bar magnets (not shown) introduced into the foam injection mold 4 or parts of the latter (pipes). The magnetic force of the retaining elements 8 used holds the adhesive sealing components 4 with their ferromagnetic properties or layers of them used for the purpose together in firm contact and in position inside the foam injection mold 4 during the foam injection process; the relevant cover 3 forms a sealing surface or foam barrier in the area of the relevant edge cover 5 reliably preventing harmful penetration of the foam material into the adhesive elements 2. This dispenses with the need for any coverings on the back of the adhesive sealing component 1 or ones in the form of a sealing

compound used directly for the adhesive elements 2. As is to be seen from the figures, the edge coverings 5 end in the area of the magnetic strips 10 or they extend beyond this area to form an extended sealing length. The layers 9 claimed may in addition improve the foam injection process so that reliable injection of the adhesive sealing component 1 into the polyurethane foam material of the vehicle upholstery element is ensured, especially if the layers 9 are applied to the back of the relevant adhesive sealing component 1 facing away from the injection mold 4.

The adhesive sealing component 1 consists in particular of a polyamide or of a polyolefin material. In the case of the conventional production process described in DE 196 46 318 A1, in production of the adhesive sealing component 1 with its plurality of one-piece adhesive elements 2 in the form of stalks with thickened areas a thermoplastic material in plastic or liquid state is delivered to a gap between a press roller and a section roller, the section roller being provided with cavities opening outward and inward and both rollers being driven in opposite directions. The section roller has a screen the openings in which are produced by etching or by means of a laser, the adhesive sealing elements resulting exclusively from the circumstance that the thermoplastic material hardens in the openings in the screen. The thickened areas of the individual stalks in question are in the form of mushroom heads flattened or having concave recesses.

Other state-of-the-art processes may be applied in order to produce loops as adhesive elements 2 as illustrated in Figure 2. In any event, the section rolling process claimed may be applied to produce very small individual adhesive elements 2 whose size

may fall entirely in the nanometer range. In place of the plastic material claimed, the adhesive sealing component 1 may also be made of textile or other plastic materials, for example by applying conventional knitting techniques. Should these materials have to be provided with ferromagnetic coatings, a sealing foam barrier may also be obtained. After the foam injection process has been completed, the foamed part, an upholstery element in particular, along with the injected foam adhesive sealing component 1 in it, can be immediately removed from the foam injection mold 4 by overcoming the retaining forces of the retaining elements 8 installed in the foam injection mold. The foam injection mold 4 is then available for repetition of the foam injection process. The adhesive elements 2 of the injected-foam adhesive sealing component 1 are then in any event free in the direction of the environment and contain no foam material which might impair their functional efficiency.

In sealing by means of the adhesive sealing component 1 itself from the foam material, no additional materials or additional sealing elements, such as added sealing lips or the like, are required; sealing is rather accomplished exclusively by plane-parallel contact of the adhesive sealing strip with corresponding contact surfaces of the foam injection mold. The edge cover 5 of the adhesive sealing component 1 which effects sealing may be in the form of a foil or at least very thin sheet material.

Claims

1. A process for production of a foam component, a foam upholstery component in particular, for a vehicle seat, which component is provided at the minimum with an adhesive sealing component (1) with adhesive elements (2) which, covered by a foam retaining cover (3) with ferromagnetic properties, are received in a foam injection mold (4) producing the foam component, with the cover (3) being in the form of the adhesive sealing component (1) itself, which is mounted with a variable-width edge cover (5) projecting over the area having the adhesive elements (2) and with a retaining mechanism (6) brought into in separable contact with the foam injection mold (4), characterized in that the adhesive elements (2) are mounted in one plane with the edge cover (5) of the adhesive sealing element (1) in contact with the foam injection mold (4) and that the ferromagnetic components are in the form of an integral part of the adhesive sealing element (1) or that layers (9) are applied to the front and/or rear of the adhesive sealing element (1).

2. A process as described in Claim 1, wherein at the minimum the edge cover (5) of the adhesive sealing component (1) has ferromagnetic components and is used as one component of the retaining mechanism (6) whose other component belonging to the foam injection mold (4) is in the form of retaining elements (8) mounted on this mold (4) and generating magnetic fields, ones by which the edge cover (5) is held during the foam injection process to form a foam barrier.

3. A process as described in one of Claims 1 to 2, wherein the edge cover (5) is made up of at least two lengthwise edges of

the adhesive sealing component (1), which edges, free of adhesive elements (2) between themselves, are provided with a surface area having adhesive elements (2).

4. A process as described in one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein the relevant layer (9) is obtained by means of a sol-gel process or is in the form of an adhesive base material.

5. A process as described in one of Claims 2 to 4, wherein the retaining elements (8) of the foam injection mold (4) generating magnetic fields are made up of permanent magnets, for example, ones in the form of magnetic strips (10) or bar magnets introduced into the foam injection mold (4) or into components of this mold.

6. A process as described in one of Claims 1 to 5, wherein the adhesive sealing component (1) is in the form of a polyamide or of a polyolefin material or at least in part of textile materials.

7. An adhesive sealing component (1) produced by the process described in one of Claims 1 to 9, wherein the adhesive sealing component (1) foam injectable into a foam component is provided with an edge cover (5) which, free of adhesive elements (2), has part of a retaining mechanism (6) for separable contact with parts of a foam injection mold (4) used to produce the foam component.

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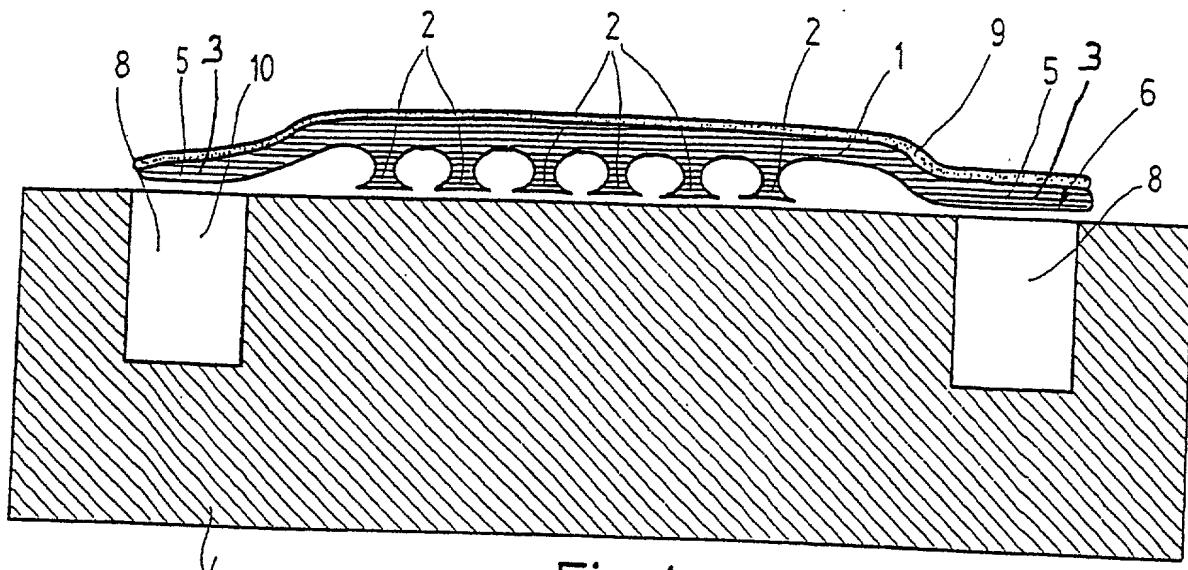


Fig. 1

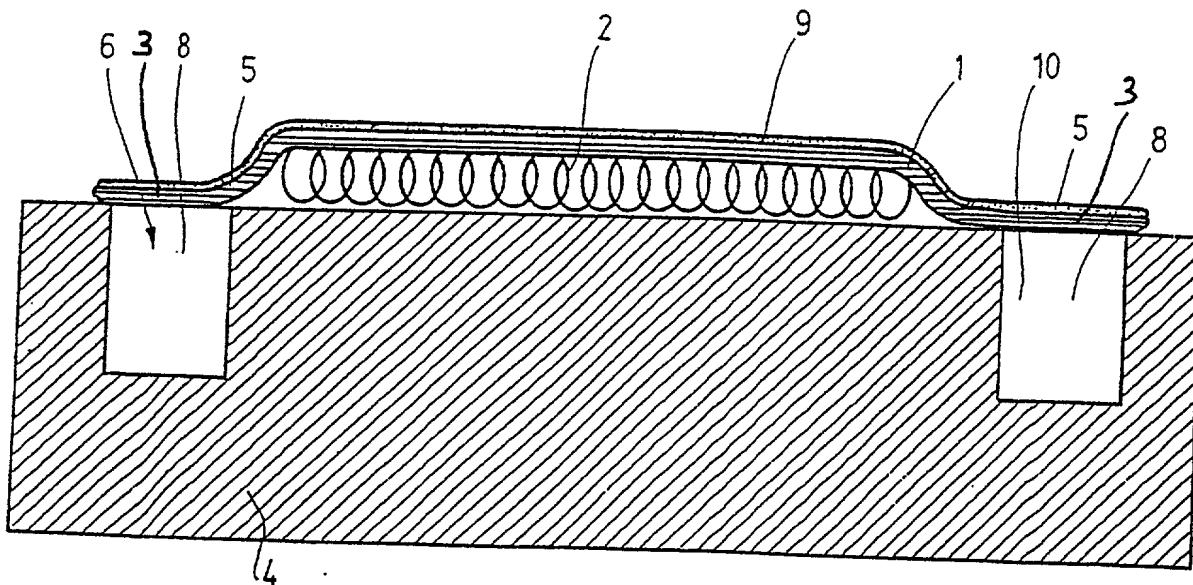


Fig. 2

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

# Declaration and Power of Attorney for Patent Application Erklärung für Patentanmeldungen mit Vollmacht

## **German Language Declaration**

Als nachstehend benannter Erfinder erkläre ich hiermit an Eides Statt:

daß mein Wohnsitz, meine Postanschrift und meine Staatsangehörigkeit den im nachstehenden nach meinem Namen aufgeführten Angaben entsprechen, daß ich nach bestem Wissen der ursprüngliche, erste und alleinige Erfinder (falls nachstehend nur ein Name angegeben ist) oder ein ursprünglicher, erster und Miterfinder (falls nachstehend mehrere Namen aufgeführt sind) des Gegenstandes bin, für den dieser Antrag gestellt wird und für den ein Patent für die Erfindung mit folgendem Titel beantragt wird:

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zutreffend).

Ich bestätige hiermit, daß ich den Inhalt der oben angegebenen Patentanmeldung, einschließlich der Ansprüche, die eventuell durch einen oben erwähnten Zusatzantrag abgeändert wurde, durchgesehen und verstanden habe.

Ich erkenne meine Pflicht zur Offenbarung jeglicher Informationen an, die zur Prüfung der Patentfähigkeit in Einklang mit Titel 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 von Belang sind.

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

## PROCESS FOR PRODUCING FOAMED

## ARTICLES, ESPECIALLY FOAMED ARTICLES

## FOR UPHOLSTERING CAR SEATS

the specification of which is attached hereto unless the following box is checked:

was filed on September 28, 1998 as United States Application Number or PCT International Application Number PCT/EP98/06141 and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56.

### German Language Declaration

Ich beanspruche hiermit ausländische Prioritätsvorteile gemäß Title 35, US-Code, § 119 (a)-(d), bzw. § 365(b) aller unten aufgeführten Auslandsanmeldungen für Patente oder Erfinderurkunden, oder § 365(a) aller PCT internationalen Anmeldungen, welche wenigstens ein Land außer den Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika benennen, und habe nachstehend durch ankreuzen sämtliche Auslandsanmeldungen für Patente bzw. Erfinderurkunden oder PCT internationale Anmeldungen angegeben, deren Anmeldetag dem der Anmeldung, für welche Priorität beansprucht wird, vorangeht.

Prior Foreign Applications  
(Frühere ausländische Anmeldungen)

(Number) (Nummer)	(Country) (Land)
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(Number) (Nummer)	(Country) (Land)
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Ich beanspruche hiermit Prioritätsvorteile unter Title 35, US-Code, § 119(e) aller US-Hilfsanmeldungen wie unten aufgezählt.

(Application No.) (Aktenzeichen)	(Filing Date) (Anmeldetag)
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(Application No.) (Aktenzeichen)	(Filing Date) (Anmeldetag)
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Ich beanspruche hiermit die mir unter Title 35, US-Code, § 120 zustehenden Vorteile aller unten aufgeführten US-Patentanmeldungen bzw. § 365(c) aller PCT internationalen Anmeldungen, welche die Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika benennen, und erkenne, insofern der Gegenstand eines jeden früheren Anspruchs dieser Patentanmeldung nicht in einer US-Patentanmeldung, bzw. PCT internationalen Anmeldung in einer gemäß dem ersten Absatz von Title 35, US-Code, § 112 vorgeschriebenen Art und Weise offenbart wurde, meine Pflicht zur Offenbarung jeglicher Informationen an, die zur Prüfung der Patentfähigkeit in Einklang mit Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 von Belang sind und die im Zeitraum zwischen dem Anmeldetag der früheren Patentanmeldung und dem nationalen oder im Rahmen des Vertrags über die Zusammenarbeit auf dem Gebiet des Patentwesens (PCT) gültigen internationalen Anmeldetags bekannt geworden sind.

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Ich erkläre hiermit, daß alle in der vorliegenden Erklärung von mir gemachten Angaben nach bestem Wissen und Gewissen der Wahrheit entsprechen, und ferner daß ich diese eidesstattliche Erklärung in Kenntnis dessen ablege, daß wissentlich und vorsätzlich falsche Angaben oder dergleichen gemäß § 1001, Title 18 des US-Code strafbar sind und mit Geldstrafe und/oder Gefängnis bestraft werden können und daß derartige wissentlich und vorsätzlich falsche Angaben die Rechtswirksamkeit der vorliegenden Patentanmeldung oder eines aufgrund deren erteilten Patentes gefährden können.

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(Day/Month/Year Filed)  
(Tag/Monat/Jahr der Anmeldung)

(Day/Month/Year Filed)  
(Tag/Monat/Jahr der Anmeldung)

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(Status) (patented, pending, abandoned)  
(Status) (patentiert, schwebend, aufgegeben)

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

**German Language Declaration**

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10-

Postanschrift:

Telefonische Auskünfte: *(Name und Telefonnummer)*

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: *(list name and registration number)*

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Unterschrift des Erfinders	Datum	Inventor's signature			Date 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2001
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Wohnsitz	Residence				
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Postanschrift	Post Office Address				

(Im Falle dritter und weiterer Miterfinder sind die entsprechenden Informationen und Unterschriften hinzuzufügen.)

(Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent joint inventors.)